Bengal), cylinder handling work in the shed is carried out by the regular employees since inception of the plant.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) One worker of a transport contractor during the course of loading on 22.7.92 felt giddiness and fell down. This worker was subsequently rushed to hospital where on arrival he was declared dead. The worker was engaged by an approved transport contractor. The transport contractor's limited labour force does not work continuously in the plant as loading/un-loading of trucks is a short term operation and therefore, no registration under the Contract Labour (R&A) Act, 1970 is required.

(e) The matter was immediately reported to the Local Police. The Director of Factories, Punjab was informed by IOC telegraphically on 23.7.92. Subsequently a detailed report was submitted to the Director of Factories (Punjab), Chandigarh and Asstt. Director of Factories, Jalandhar conducted an inquiry at Jalandhar plant on 27.7.92 and submitted his report to the Director of Factories, Chandigarh.

(f) As per the Vasudevan Committee recommendations, the Jalandhar bottling has been revamped and commissioned. The revamped plant has facilities like separate empty cylinder shed, separate cylinder filling shed, separate filled cylinder shed and separate cold repair shed. The old bottling plant at Jalandhar is proposed to be decommissioned for bottling operations.

उसर (महाराष्ट्र) स्थित दूसरे गैस टर्मिनल के लिए अधिक गैस

2895. **श्री सुशील कुमार संभाजीराव शिन्दे:** क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने उसर (महाराष्ट्र) में स्थापित किये जा रहे दूसरे गैस टर्मिनल के लिए ज्यादा गैस देने का आश्वासन दिया था; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही की है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Proposal by Australia for under sea pipeline

2896. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australia's Broken Hill petroleum has submitted a proposal jointly to the Indian and Iranian Governments for under sea pipeline linking Iran's huge gas reserves to India's west coast;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted the offer;

(c) if so, by when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(d) what are the conditions imposed by the Australian Firm and to what extent Government have accepted the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) An Expert Group has been constituted by the Ministry to look into the various proposals for transporting natural gas to the country including the one from M/s. Broken Hill Petroleum of Australia. Any consideration of the proposal of transportation would arise only after the source of supply is tied up.

Offering Small Oilfields to Private Sector Companies

2897. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government has offered small Oil fields to Private Sector companies;

(b) if so, what are the total companies that have submitted proposals; and

(c) what are the Oil fields that will be allotted to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total of 87 bids have been received for development of small sized fields.

(c) Proposals for award of contracts in [illegible] of the small-sized fields are under [illegible]ion.

British firms for implementing southern gas grid project

2898. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether British Firms have shown their keen interest on implementing southern gas grid projects;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been signed with UK firms; and

(c) what are the other projects where UK has agreed to help India in setting up the gas projects in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A proposal for a joint venture project with British Gas for the supply of gas in Bombay City is under consideration of the Gas Authority of India Ltd.

Oil-exploration by International Companies

2899. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to offer for the first time 35 Blocks for Oil-exploration for surveying of potential oil fields, to international companies;

(b) if so, what are the details of Blocks that are offered for the oil exploration;

(c) whether any agreements with the international companies have been reached;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the oil exploration survey by international companies will start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Government had, in September, 1993, offered 35 blocks for carrying out speculative geophysical and other types of surveys. Of these 35 blocks, 21 are offshore and 14 are onshore.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The work will start after the contracts are concluded through negotiations.

Private sectors in LPG/Kerosene Marketing

2900. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item which appeared in the Statesman Dated 4th October, 1993 that cooking gas (LPG), the house wife's dream fuel, would easily become available in the next few years with the introduction of parallel marketing scheme for LPG and kerosene which will show definite results in the next two to three years;